Detrimental Fishing Practices and Relation to Public Health in Tanzania
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This poster aims to discuss the intersection between sustainable fishing and upholding public health. The fishing practice in Tanzania most detrimental to the environment is blast fishing. Blast fishing occurs as a result of being cheap to do, easy to execute with local resources, and yielding large amounts of catch. This method is very destructive to the immediate marine environment and often yields so large a catch that not all which is caught is able to be sold. It is not typical to have refrigeration in Tanzania, so these large catches sit out in the sun near the equator all day if they are not sold. This causes large amounts of food waste, which renders the initial environmental destruction unnecessary. It can also cause the seafood to begin to go bad and potentially carry disease to those who consume it. This poses a risk to public health as well, as many coastal Tanzanian towns rely on seafood as a main food resource. In African bioethics, community is one of the main principles. Due to this, if the rhetoric around sustainable fishing can be reimagined and geared toward the impacts it has on the health of the community rather than the environment, there is a much greater likelihood that sustainable fishing practices will be upheld over time.